

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

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R 101035Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

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TAGS: MTN, EEC, ETRD, EAGR, TS

SUBJ: CONCLUSION OF TUNISIAN-EC NEGOTIATIONS

REF : ROME 300; EC BRUSSELS 166; TUNIS 138

1. PROVISIONS IN NEW EC-TUNISIA "ASSOCIATION" AGREEMENT,
ACCORDING ARTICLE IN INDEPENDENT DAILY LE TEMPS OF JAN 8,
GENRALLY IN LINE WITH SUBSTANCE REPORTED ROME 300. LE TEMPS
INDICATES, HOWEVER, THAT RATHER THAN REDUCING EC LEVY ON
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OLIVE OIL IMPORTED FROM TUNISIA BY 20 UNITS OF ACCOUNT PER

HUNDRED KILOGRAMS, NEW AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO TUNISIA OF THIS AMOUNT AFTER COLLECTION BY EC AUTHORITIES. ARTICLE NOTES THIS PROVISION INTENDED MAINTAIN HIGH INTERNAL EC PRICE FOR OLIVE OIL ON EC MARKETS ALTHOUGH TUNISIAN OIL WOULD HAVE MINOR COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE OF 0.5 UNITS OF ACCOUNT PER HUNDRED KILOGRAMS PER NEW EC-GOT AGREEMENT.

2. ACCORDING LE TEMPS, PRODUCTS NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED BY NEW EC AGREEMENT CAN CONTINUE TO ENTER FRANCE DUTY FREE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING GOT-GOF BILATERAL AGREEMENT. CERTAIN OTHER TUNISIAN PRODUCTS ONLY PARTIALLY COVERED BY NEW EC AGREEMENT, ARTICLE NOTES, CAN BENEFIT ON TEMPORARY BASIS FROM BOTH BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE AND EC AGREEMENT PENDING RENEGOTIATIONS OF ADVANTAGES IN 1978 AS PROVIDED FOR IN NEW EC AGREEMENT. WHILE TUNISIANS HAVE INFORMED EMBOFF IN PART THAT GOT WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO EVENTUAL RECIPROCAL REDUCTION OF TARIFFS AS PART OF LARGER "FREE TRADE AREA," THEY SAID THIS VERY MUCH IN DISTANT FUTURE AND, IN MEANTIME, GOT STRONGLY OPPOSED TO GRANTING "REVERSE PREFERENCES."

3. BOTH ITALIAN EMBASSY AND TUNISIANS APPEAR CONFIDENT THAT EC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL APPROVE EC-TUNISIA AGREEMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILS ON EC-TUNISIAN AGREEMENT NOTED PARA 3 BRUSSELS 166 WHEN AVAILABLE AND ANY OTHER ASSESSMENT AS TO PROBABILITY OF EARLY APPROVAL BY EC COUNCIL.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH UNISIANS MUST BE DISAPPOINTED THAT EC NOT PREPARED LOWER INTERNAL EC PRICE FOR OLIVE OIL THEREBY STIMULATING CONSUMPTION, PRESS REPORTS APPEAR PUT BEST FACE FORWARD ON TAX ADVANTAGE IN PROBABLE RECOGNITION THAT THESE ARE PROBABLY MOST FAVORABLE TERMS GOT CAN EXPECT.
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